question of nationality, rationality or any other such ground, but on the score of poverty.

Deputy President.—Do you wish to press the resolution?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I shall rather have the humiliation of losing the resolution than withdrawing that.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—What is the humiliation ?

The resolution was then put to the vote of the House and carried. On a poll being taken it was found that 12 voted for and 11 against.

46. Power to Issue Permits.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—എന്റെ പ്രമേയം.—"കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ ചരക്കുകൾ ഇതരസംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽകൂടി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു രാഹദാരികൾ കൊടുപ്പാനുള്ള അധികാരം വില്ലേജ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കും പഞ്ചായത്തു പ്രസിഡണ്ടുമാക്കും നല്കുണമെന്നു ഈ യോഗം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു".—എന്നാണു. തീരുവ തീർക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതായ ചരക്കുകൾ ഈ സംസ്ഥാനാതിത്തിയിൽകൂടി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു് തഹസിൽദാരുടെ രാഹദാരി വേണമെന്നാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പുള്ള നിയമം. അതുമൂലം ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും ചില അവസരങ്ങളിൽ നഷ്ടവും സഹിക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് വില്ലേജു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പരിശോധിച്ചു എണ്ണിഴുസു ചെയ്തു് താലൂക്കാഫീസ്സിലയച്ചു അവിടെനിന്നുവേണം രാഹദാരി വാങ്ങുവാൻ. ഈ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ സഹിച്ചാലും രാഹദാരി വാങ്ങി ചരക്കുകൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ രണ്ടോ, മൂന്നോ ദിവസം വേണ്ടിവന്നേയ്ക്കും. താമസംമൂലം വരുന്ന നഷ്ടവും ചില്ലറയല്ല. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം വലിയ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടാണാമില്ല. വേറെചില താലൂക്കുകളിലാണു വലിയ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു്. ചേന്ദമംഗലം വില്ലേജുകാർ കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർ താലൂക്കാഫീസ്സിലും എടവിലങ്ങു വില്ലേജുകാർ മുകുന്ദപുരം താലൂക്കാഫീസ്സിലും പോയി കായ്നിവൃത്തി വരുത്തുവാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ചിലവും ഉണ്ടു്. അതുതന്നെ മറ്റു താലൂക്കുകളിലേയും കഥ. ഈ വിഷയം മുമ്പൊരവസരത്തിൽ കൌൺസിലിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാമെന്നു് റവന്യൂമെമ്പർ വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു മയവായി ഈ പ്രമേയം സ്വീകരിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുമെന്നു" ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I second it.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I am sorry the Government are not in a position to accept the Resolution. The transport of dutiable articles from one part of Cochin State to another through intervening Travancore or British territory and *vice versa* is governed by certain interstatal rules passed with the approval of the respective Governments. We have got one set of rules so far as the relations with Travancore and Cochin State are con-

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cerned and another set of rules so far as British and Cochin are concerned. Under rule 9 of the rules entered into between Cochin and Travancore, permits can be issued only by an officer specially appointed by name or designation by the Chief Excise authorities of each State subject to the condition that officers so empowered shall not be below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar, or an Excise Inspector. Even in this case an exception is made in the matter of transport of tobacco and salt to Vellarappilli and certain other places. Under rule 15 (a) permits for the transport of tobacco and salt to Vellarappilli, Chennamangalam and Vadavukode can be granted only by the Excise Commissioner or his Assistant. There are similar rules regulating the transport through British territory and *vice versa*. It is not possible to make any changes in these rules without the consent of the other Governments. It is with a view to protect their State revenue that these safeguards are insisted upon. Without the consent of the British and Travancore Governments it will not be possible for our Government to enact any rule authorising any other than those mentioned in the rules, to issue permits for transport of dutiable articles through the Travancore or the British territory.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Do you think whether we can entrust these officers with this power?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The other Governments must also consent. As the Travancore Government is levying import duty on tobacco and export duty on certain other articles, they must be sure that the tobacco is not disposed of there and that the other articles are not those exported from their State. Otherwise it will affect their revenue. It is for that reason that they want special officers to issue permits and unless the officers appointed have got some status, it will not be possible to check any malpractices and it will give an impetus to smuggling and there will be consequent complaints from the other Governments. Even with these restrictions regarding the persons who are authorised to issue permits, complaints are received that there is smuggling going on. Even if our Government is willing to authorise the persons mentioned in the Resolution to issue permits, it is not possible to do so without the consent of the other Governments. The difficulty is that the goods have to pass through other States. It is only under a mutual agreement that our articles are allowed to pass through the Travancore and British territories without payment of any duty. The rules in regard to this matter have therefore to be strictly followed.

Mr. C A. Kunjunni Raja.—Do you think whether these Village Officers and Panchayat Presidents have got sufficient status to be entrusted with these powers?

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Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Travancore and British Governments may not consent to entrust them with these powers. It will not also be possible to know the date on which goods will be taken through the foreign territory when the permit is issued by a Panchayat President on whom the Government has no control.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I think, if the word Village Officer is changed into Village Munsiffs, that will attract some status.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether the Village Munsiffs in British parts issue such passes?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I do not know. Some set of officers do it in both places. It is not possible to entrust this power to any other officers and the other Governments would not allow it unless they are satisfied that the officer who is appointed has got some status. Formerly the Excise Superintendent was the only person entrusted with this power and it was after frequent correspondence that the other officers have been authorised and entrusted with these powers. It is a case of real difficulty.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, one word of explanation. This objection relates only to dutiable articles. What about a few cocoanuts to be taken from Ernakulam?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It cannot pass through that State. I understand they do not allow.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—At least in the case of these articles some concession may be made and why not Village Officers be entrusted with the issue of such passes.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Travancore Government must allow. That is the trouble. The resolution is general. I cannot say off-hand whether the Travancore Government will allow it. I cannot say now. I believe Travancore Government is levying export duties on cocoanuts, etc. Only in the case of dutiable articles customs duties are levied. It is only in such cases that permits are required. In other cases you can freely import even without a permit. Of course the question will arise only in the case of dutiable articles. In the other cases there will be no difficulty.

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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